RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 26th February, 1986/ 7th Phalguna, 1907 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Purchase of Westland helicopters

@*41. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to purchase Westland helicopters for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the UK Government have instituted an enquiry into the affairs of the Westand Company:

(d) whether Government propose to revise their decision in the light of such an enquiry; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Negotiations for the purchase of Westland helicopters are being concretised.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has no information about this.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

@Starred Questions Nos. 41 and 50 were taken together.

Purchase of Westland helicopters

@*50. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:† SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State for Civil Aviation has stated in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th December, 1985 to the effect that no decision has been taken regarding the Westland helicopter for the Helicopter Corporation of India whereas at a press conference on the 24th December,1985, he had stated that the Corporation was going helicopters;

(b) if so, when the decision in this regard was taken;

(c) in what manner the manufacturers of Westland helicopter met the objection raised by the Prime Minister in the House on 2nd May, 1985 to the effect that the single engine performance was poor and maintenance costs were high;

(d) whether the major defects are to be rectified in a short period of three months; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to buy the Westland Company itself and transport the entire unit to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) On the 18th of December,1985 it was stated that evaluation of helicopters was under process. On the 24th of December I stated that the negotiations for purchase

@Starred Questions Nos. 41 and 50 were taken together.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Suresh Kalmadi.